

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 54-96 are pending in the application. Claims 54, 69, 79, 92, and 95 are currently amended, without acquiescence in cited basis for rejection or prejudice to pursue in a related application. All the other claims remain unchanged. A complete listing of the current pending claims is provided below and supersedes all previous claim listing(s). No new matter has been added.

1-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently Amended) A method of providing remotely located circuit design resources, the method comprising:

connecting one or more user nodes to a portal over a distributed electronic network;

connecting one or more supplier nodes to the portal over the distributed electronic network;

making available one or more circuit design resources through the portal, at least one of the one or more circuit design resources being located on one of the one or more user and supplier nodes;

ranking the one or more integrated circuit design resources based upon a prior activity of a user;

receiving one or more requests from at least one of the one or more user nodes for access to the one or more circuit design resources available through the portal and not located on the one or more user node;

automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes; and

maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more circuit design resources comprise component data, the component data being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the component data comprises component data sheets, timing models, application notes, simulation models, and/or signal integrity models.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more circuit design resources comprise one or more virtual circuit blocks, each of the one or more virtual component blocks being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more circuit design resources comprise one or more electronic design automation tools.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more circuit design resources comprise a ranked listing of suppliers of integrated circuit fabrication services.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more circuit design resources comprise information on expert design services.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the portal;

acquiring each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the portal from at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes; and

transmitting the requested one or more circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, in which automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the portal; and

providing information to the one or more user nodes on how to access each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the portal.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, in which the information provided to the one or more user nodes comprises linking information to at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes where the requested one or more circuit design resources are located.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the portal; and

sending information to the one or more user nodes on how to obtain each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the portal.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, in which the information sent to the one or more user nodes comprises a username and password.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

determining whether each of the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes can be fulfilled at the portal; and

forwarding each of the one or more requests that cannot be fulfilled at the portal to at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

maintaining prior usage information relating to the one or more requests received from one or more users.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers at the portal.

69. (Currently Amended) A computer program product that includes a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to execute a process for providing remotely located circuit design resources; the process comprising:

connecting one or more user nodes to a portal over a distributed electronic network;
connecting one or more supplier nodes to the portal over the distributed electronic network;
making available one or more circuit design resources through the portal, at least one of the one or more circuit design resources being located on one of the one or more user and supplier nodes;
ranking the one or more circuit design resources based upon a prior activity of a user;
receiving one or more requests from at least one of the one or more user nodes for access to the one or more circuit design resources available through the portal and not located on the one or more user nodes;
automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user, and
maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers.

70. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the one or more circuit design resources comprise component data, the component data being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

71. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise a plurality of virtual circuit blocks, each of the plurality of virtual component blocks being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.

72. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the one or more circuit design resources comprise one or more electronic design automation tools.

73. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the portal;

acquiring each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the portal from at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes; and
transmitting the requested one or more circuit design resources to the at least one of the one or more user nodes.

74. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the portal; and
providing information to the one or more user nodes on how to access each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the portal.

75. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 74, in which the information provided to the one or more user nodes comprises linking information to at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes where the requested one or more circuit design resources are located.

76. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the portal; and
sending information to the one or more user nodes on how to obtain each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the portal.

77. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

determining whether each of the one or more requests from the one or more user node can be fulfilled at the portal; and

forwarding each of the one or more requests that cannot be fulfilled at the portal to at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

78. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein the process further comprises:

maintaining prior usage information relating to the one or more requests received from one or more users at the portal.

79. (Currently Amended) A system for providing remotely located circuit design resources, the system comprising:

means for connecting one or more user nodes to a portal over a distributed electronic network;

means for connecting one or more supplier nodes to the portal over the distributed electronic network;

means for making available one or more circuit design resources through the portal, at least one of the one or more circuit design resources being located on one of the one or more user and supplier nodes;

means for ranking the one or more circuit design resources based upon a prior activity of a user;

means for receiving one or more requests from at least one of the one or more user nodes for access to the one or more circuit design resources available through the portal and not located on the one or more user node;

means for automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes; and

maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers.

80. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which the one or more circuit design resources comprise component data, the component data being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

81. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which the one or more circuit design resources comprise one or more virtual circuit blocks, each of the one or more virtual component blocks being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

82. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which the one or more circuit design resources comprise one or more electronic design automation tools.

83. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which the means for automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

means for determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the portal;

means for acquiring each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the portal from at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes; and

means for transmitting the requested one or more circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes.

84. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

means for determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the portal; and

means for providing information to the one or more user nodes on how to access each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the portal.

85. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 84, in which the information provided to the one or more user nodes comprises linking information to at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes where the requested one or more circuit design resources are located.

86. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

means for determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the portal; and

means for sending information to the one or more user nodes on how to obtain each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the portal.

87. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which the means for automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

means for determining whether each of the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes can be fulfilled at the portal; and

means for forwarding each of the one or more requests that cannot be fulfilled at the portal to at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

88. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, further comprising:

means for maintaining prior usage information relating to the one or more requests received from one or more users-at the portal.

89. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 further comprising:

presenting the ranked plurality of circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89, in which the step of ranking the one or more circuit design resources is performed by the portal.

91. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the process for providing remotely located circuit design resources further comprises maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers at the portal.

92. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the process for providing remotely located circuit design resources further comprises:

~~ranking the one or more circuit design resources; and~~

presenting the ranked plurality of circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes.

93. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 92, in which the step of ranking the one or more circuit design resources is performed by the portal.

94. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, further comprising means for maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers at the portal.

95. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 79 further comprising:
~~means for ranking the one or more circuit design resources; and~~
means for presenting the ranked plurality of circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes.
96. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 95, in which the means for ranking the one or more circuit design resources constitute part of the portal.